

Claims

1. A support foot for a modular safety rail system, said support foot being adapted to provide location for a vertical member of the safety rail system and to provide location for a toe board which may be arranged, in use, to extend between two successive, spaced apart support feet, each said support foot comprising:-

a base plate having upper and lower surface regions and an outer periphery;

a plurality of location formations positioned inwards of said outer periphery and each extending from said upper surface for location of a vertical member;

a plurality of web formations provided at said upper surface and each extending from a respective location formation in a direction towards said outer periphery, each web formation having an upper edge and the web formation extending upwards from the upper surface of the base plate to said upper edge, and

the lower surface of the base plate having at least one recess region shaped and positioned such that when one said support foot is stacked

on top of a second said support foot **(a)** at least one of a distal end of a location formation and an upper edge of a web formation of said second said support foot engages with said recess region of said one said support foot to prevent lateral movement of said one said support foot relative to said second said support foot, and **(b)** the upper edge of each said web formation of said second said support foot is able to be contacted by the lower surface of said one said support foot thereby to resist toppling of the superimposed support foot.

2. A support foot according to claim 1, wherein the distal ends of the location formations extend further from the base plate than the web formations.

3. A support foot according to claim 2, wherein the lower surface of the base plate is provided with one or a plurality of individual recesses to accommodate the distal ends of the location formations in a manner in which, when one support foot is stacked on top of another, the weight of the upper of a pair of support feet is supported by the distal end of at least one of said location formations of the lower of the two support feet, with relative lateral movement of the two support feet being restrained by the presence of the distal ends of the location formations in said recess or recesses.

4. A support foot according to claim 3, wherein when one support foot is stacked on top of another a spacing exists between the upper edge surfaces of the web formations of the lower support foot and the lower surface of the upper of the two support feet.

5. A support foot according to claim 2, wherein the lower surface of the base plate is provided with one or a plurality of individual recesses to accommodate the distal ends of the location formations in a manner in which, when one support foot is stacked on top of another, the weight of the upper of a pair of support feet is supported by upper edge surfaces of the web formations of the lower of the two support feet, with relative lateral movement of the two support feet being restrained by the presence of the distal ends of the location formations in said recess or recesses.

6. A support foot according to claim 1, wherein upper edge surfaces of the web formations are each able to provide support for a superimposed second support foot at a position of that upper edge which lies furthest from the associated location formation.

7. A support foot according to claim 6, wherein said upper edge surfaces are each able to provide support for a superimposed second support foot at a position substantially aligned with the outer periphery of the base plate.
8. A support foot according to claim 1, wherein the support foot comprises at least three support webs.
9. A support foot according to claim 1, wherein the support foot comprises four support webs each extending in a direction substantially perpendicular relative to the two support webs between which it is positioned.
10. A support foot according to claim 9, wherein two successive webs have the support surfaces thereof facing in an anti-clockwise direction and the other two webs have the support surfaces thereof facing in a clockwise direction.
11. A support foot according to claim 1, wherein each web formation provides structural support for, and is supported by, a location formation.

12. A support foot according to claim 1, wherein each location formation comprises a socket having a central cylindrical bore which in use receives an end of a vertical member, and retention means to enable the vertical member to be positively located axially, in a vertical direction, relative to the support foot.

13. A support foot according to claim 1, wherein the base plate comprises a slot adapted to receive a part of a toe board and the face of a web formation lies adjacent an edge of the slot thereby, in use, to provide a support function for a toe board positioned in said slot.

14. A support foot according to claim 13, wherein the slot extends for only part of the distance from the outer periphery of the base plate towards a location formation.

15. A support foot according to claim 1, wherein the base plate, location formations, and web formations are formed integrally with one another in the form of a casting.

16. A support foot according to claim 1, wherein each web formation is formed integral with a location formation over a substantial part of the distance for which the location formation extends from the upper surface of the base plate.

17. A support foot according to claim 1, wherein each web formation is provided with a reinforcing formation, at a side opposite that face of the web formation which in use is contacted by a toe.

18. A support foot according to claim 1, wherein the outer periphery of the base plate is circular.

19. A support foot for a modular safety rail system, said support foot being adapted to provide location for a vertical member of the safety rail system and to provide location for a toe board which may be arranged, in use, to extend between two successive, spaced apart support feet, each said support foot comprising:-

a base plate having upper and lower surface regions and an outer periphery;

four location formations positioned inwards of said outer periphery and each extending from said upper surface for location of a vertical member;

four web formations provided at said upper surface and each extending from a respective location formation in a direction towards said outer periphery, each web formation having an upper edge and the web formation extending upwards from the upper surface of the base plate to said upper edge;

each web formation extending in a direction substantially perpendicular to the two support webs between which it extends, and two successive webs having the support surfaces thereof facing in an anti-clockwise direction and the other two webs facing in a clockwise direction, and

the lower surface of the base plate having at least one recess region shaped and positioned such that when one said support foot is stacked on top of a second said support foot **(a)** at least one of a distal end of a location formation and an upper edge of a web formation of said second said support foot engages with said recess region of said one

said support foot to prevent lateral movement of said one said support foot relative to said second said support foot, and **(b)** the upper edge of each said web formation of said second said support foot is able to be contacted by the lower surface of said one said support foot thereby to resist toppling of the superimposed support foot.

20. A support foot for a modular safety rail system, said support foot being adapted to provide location for a vertical member of the safety rail system and to provide location for a toe board which may be arranged, in use, to extend between two successive, spaced apart support feet, each said support foot comprising:-

a base plate having upper and lower surface regions and an outer periphery;

a plurality of location formations positioned inwards of said outer periphery and each extending from said upper surface for location of a vertical member;

a plurality of web formations provided at said upper surface and each extending from a respective location formation in a direction towards

said outer periphery, each web formation having an upper edge and the web formation extending upwards from the upper surface of the base plate to said upper edge;

the base plate comprising a slot adapted to receive a part of a toe board and the face of a web formation lying adjacent an edge of the slot thereby, in use, to provide a support function for a toe board positioned in said slot, said slot extending for only part of the distance from the outer periphery of the base plate towards a location formation, and

the lower surface of the base plate having at least one recess region shaped and positioned such that when one said support foot is stacked on top of a second said support foot **(a)** at least one of a distal end of a location formation and an upper edge of a web formation of said second said support foot engages with said recess region of said one said support foot to prevent lateral movement of said one said support foot relative to said second said support foot, and **(b)** the upper edge of each said web formation of said second said support foot is able to be contacted by the lower surface of said one said support foot thereby to resist toppling of the superimposed support foot.